

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 EB-11 COME-00

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S/S-O: G. TWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126803

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS CO VE

SUBJECT: EVENHANDEDNESS POLICY IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 50515, MAY 23, 1972

1. AS INDICATED IN IG REVIEW OF COLOMBIA CASP (STATE 105943) AND IN VENEZUELA CASP DECISION MEMORANDUM, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA CASPS DIRECTED REASSESSMENT BE MADE OF LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF OUR POLICY OF EVENHANDEDNESS IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE EXTENDED TO COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA.

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2. ADDRESSEES ARE WELL AWARE THAT "EVENHANDEDNESS",

THAT IS SEEKING TO AVOID DEMONSTRABLE FAVORITISM TO COLOMBIA OR VENEZUELA IN RESPONDING TO THEIR ARMS REQUESTS BY BEING PREPARED TO SELL TO THE TWO COUNTRIES THE SAME TYPES OF EQUIPMENT, HAS NEVER INTENDED TO ASPIRE TO CREATION OR MAINTENANCE OF MILITARY "BALANCE" AS BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA. IT HAS, HOWEVER, SOUGHT TO AVOID OUR CONTRIBUTING THROUGH CREDIT, VESSEL TRANSFERS, ETC. TO ANY STATE OF "IMBALANCE". FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE TENDED TOWARD PRACTICE OF EQUAL CREDIT ALLOCATIONS AND MATCHING OFFERS OF MAJOR ITEMS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON TERMS WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED CONCESSIONAL.

3. FMS CASH OR COMMERCIAL SALES HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT MATTER, AND WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO APPLY "EVENHANDEDNESS" TO NORMAL SUPPLY AND RESUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

4. IN LIGHT OF PAST RECORD, HOST COUNTRY REACTIONS, RECENT TRENDS, AND NEW AFFLUENCE OF VENEZUELA, ADDRESSEE VIEWS AND COMMENTS WILL BE APPRECIATED.

5. DOD CONCURS. SISCO

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